

Adventures with GOD!

CHRIST, THE LIVING WORD (C.3.SPRING.5)

Biblical Reference	John 1:1-14
Key Verse	John 1:14
Key Concept	Jesus Christ, the Eternal king, became human to bring God's living Word to my life.
Educational Objectives	At the end of this lesson, children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draw a picture that represents Jesus as God's living Word 2. Explain why Jesus is called the "Word" 3. Memorize the Key Verse and explore how it applies to their lives

Life Application

Although God's word was revealed to humans through nature, in Scripture, and by the prophets, people still didn't seem to get it. People continued to live their lives as they saw fit, turning their back on God and on their fellow people. So God became flesh in the person of Jesus, and lived among the people. Children will have the opportunity to reflect on the amazing truth about who God is and how God's love is revealed in Christ, who came to restore our relationship with God, each other, and all of creation.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Bible Exploration	Camera, Bible, paper, words, symbols	10 minutes
Learning Centers		15 minutes
Activity	See instructions	15 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

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INSTRUCTIONS

My GROW Adventure with God Weekly Review: As children enter, take time to have them reflect on their adventure with God booklets, and either discuss or use art materials to express their journey during the past week. You may wish to add any art work, written poems, prayers or songs to a GROW wall in the room. You can find my GROW Adventure with God materials at CovChurch.org/children/adventures-with-god.

Opening Prayer: Gather children around a candle. Light the candle, and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them, palms up, as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

Prayer Example: Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen

(For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer.)

Bible Reading: Explain that we read the Bible first to spend time with God. Children can remain with hands out stretched, palms up, to receive the word as it's being read. Alternatively, they can be invited to draw what they hear. Read John 1:1-14 twice and ask children to respond.

Question examples: What did you notice in this passage? How does it make you feel? Was there anything you would ask God about that you didn't understand or was confusing? Is God saying anything to you though the passage?

Bible Exploration: Today's lesson talks about how Jesus revealed who God is and what God's purposes were to the people. "Revelation" is a big word. Start by asking children to give you a definition of the word. Next, look up the word in the dictionary together. If possible, show children a film camera as an example of what it means for something to be revealed. Explain the general process of developing photos from film; the film has to be removed from the camera in a special dark room, and placed in a bath with certain chemicals to "reveal" the pictures that were taken.

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From the beginning, God's love and purposes have been revealed to humans. How was God's word revealed to people? (Review the past couple of lessons). God's love has been/still is communicated in creation, imprinted on their hearts and minds, was written on stone tablets, and spoken by the prophets. As children tell you the different ways God's word was revealed, write down their responses on the board or on a large piece of paper. If you have time before class, consider finding symbols or images that represent the different ways God communicated with people and tape them up on the board as children name them. What do we know about what people did once they heard God's word? Did God's people always obey? Did the prophets always obey? Did God's people always obey the prophets?

As we saw with Adam and Eve, even when they disobeyed, God in God's love reached out to them. In love, God reached out to people over and over again. God spoke love in the ultimate way through a person. Who was that person? (Refer to John 1:1-14) What do we know about Jesus' life? How did Jesus show God's love? Read 1 John 4:9-10.

Learning Centers: In the Learning Centers the children will reflect on Jesus, the living Word. Prepare the materials and instructions at each center. Explain to children that they can choose whichever Learning Center to go to, then explain the different options. When children are finished at each of their Learning Centers, invite them to come together and sit in a circle.

Activity: The following activity is a way for children to reflect on and symbolize Jesus' life, death and resurrection. Bring a large potted tree or large plant that the children can decorate with symbols to represent Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. This is a type of Easter tree. Prepare different materials for children to make the ornaments (pipe-cleaners, yarn, beads, dried beans, tooth picks, popsicle sticks, paper, markers, glue, scissors).

Reflect together on how Jesus, the Son of God, revealed God to the world and through Jesus we can know God and be in relationship with God. Memorize the Key Verse and ask children to describe, in their own words, what the verse means to them. Ask children how they will respond to Jesus.

Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:

G=God's Word: What is the story? (Give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story).

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R=Relationships: Is there anything in today's Bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories of the Bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others. Give children a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead).

O=Outward Action: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? (Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week).

W=Worship: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? What would you like to say to God?

Closing Prayer: Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle, explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, the candle reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

Prayer Example: Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen

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CENTER OF INVESTIGATION

The focus of this center is on Jesus Christ, the Living Word.

Instructions:

1. Using a Bible concordance, find the different Bible verses that reference the word, "word." Here are a few to start with: Deuteronomy 8:3, 2 Samuel 22:31, Matthew 4:4, Mark 4:14, John 1:1, 1 John 1:1, Revelation 19:13.
2. Using a dictionary, look of the meaning of "word."
3. Using the information you have found, on a piece of paper create an acrostic that explains "word" as it relates to God's word. For example:

W onderful gift from God

O

R

D

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CENTER OF EXPERIMENTS

The teacher or a volunteer will need to help at this center.

1. Hang a sheet in one corner of the room. Children will sit on one side of the sheet. Each child should have a pencil and paper to record what they hear.
2. Each time children hear a noise, they have to write down, without talking to anyone, what they think they heard.
3. The teacher or helper (on the other side of the sheet) will make 3-4 different sounds. Here are some examples of the different sounds you can make: Hammer pounding on wood, dried beans in a metallic plate, two pieces of wood hitting together, singing through a straw, a brush on sand paper, running your finger around the edge of a glass with water, etc.

Children will have time to write their guesses. When you've finished with the first round, repeat all of the sounds, but this time, the helper will come out from behind the sheet so children can see the sound being made.

4. Encourage children to compare answers once all of the sounds are made. Ask children if it was easier to guess the sounds when they just heard it, or when they were able to both hear and see the sounds being made. Why would Jesus, God's living Word, make it easier for people to hear and know God? Talk about how this reflects the many times when God spoke and the people tried to listen. In the Old Testament, we see God clearly speaking through many different mediums. But for many people, it wasn't until they could see this word in action, as Jesus lived among them, that they really understood what God was talking about.

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CENTER OF APPLICATION

Read 1 John 4:9-10 together.

As a group, talk about how Jesus revealed God's love to us. In what tangible ways did Jesus show God's love? How can people know God's love? How should we respond to that love?

Together find a way to communicate the message found in 1 John 4:9-10. Come up with a drama, draw a picture, use puppets, sing a song, etc.